

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The following units participated in the maneuvers that took place in October 1952:¹
 - a. Soviet units stationed in East Germany.
 - b. Polish units of the 7th and 11th Infantry Divisions, including the 33rd Artillery Regiment from Zary (Sorau); fieldpost number of this regiment is JW 2505.
 - c. Czech units stationed at Pilsen and at Karlove Vary.
 - d. East German Volkspolizei units.

Altogether about four or five divisions took part in the maneuvers. The maneuvers lasted more than a week and took place in the Polish-Czech-German frontier area. During the maneuvers, loading and unloading of equipment from railroad cars was performed under simulated combat conditions, including observation and "bombing" by "enemy" aircraft.

2. All troops involved in the maneuvers were organized into a maneuver group which formed part of the Soviet 7th Army which has its headquarters in East Germany.² Each of the maneuver units was made up of several subordinate satellite and Soviet units, for example, a division would consist of a Soviet regiment, a Polish regiment, a Czech regiment, and a special German unit; or a Polish regiment would have a Soviet battalion; or a Polish battalion would have a Soviet, or a Czech, or a German company. Altogether, Soviet troops numbered a little more than all satellite troops put together.
3. All units participating in the maneuvers were motorized, and those vehicles which were not part of a unit's table of organization were driven only by Soviet troops. All troops were furnished with the same type of arms, which were as follows:

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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- a. Artillery and armored vehicles of Soviet origin.
 - b. Infantry rifles, type VEB-1950, manufactured at Suhl.
 - c. Small caliber guns.
 - d. Grenade mortars.
 - e. Automatic MPI-41 pistols with a 72-round magazine.
 - f. Sokolov machine guns, mounted on wheels and protected with an armored plate.
4. The officer in charge of the Polish units was General Kuszko.³ As Polish observers, the following generals attended the maneuvers: Wiktor Strazewski,⁴ Matwiejewski,⁵ (fnu) Kaszinkow,⁶ and (fnu) Lysiecki.⁷ A large group of officers from the Soviet staff at Legnica (Liegnitz) were also present at the maneuvers as observers; especially numerous were observers from the political instruction section, because, according to informant, political instruction is the weakest subject in military training. The position of chief politruk was held by Potarejko, a Soviet general on the staff at Legnica; some years ago, the then Major Potarejko was regimental politruk of the 33rd Artillery Regiment at Zary.
 5. According to informant, it was said that the staff in charge of the maneuvers was satisfied with the purely military part of the maneuvers, since these were performed with harmony and brotherliness between the several national units. However, in the camps and bivouacs, it was quite the opposite; there were disputes, quarrels, and even fights among members of the various national units. The group that was least amicable with the Soviets and the Germans were the Poles, all the way from privates to company commanders. On the other hand the Poles got along very well with Czechs and especially with the Slovaks. The greatest harmony existed in relations between Soviet and German troops, possibly because they both came from the same part of East Germany and because the German units were staffed with many Soviet officers.

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2. Comment: Records do not show the existence of a Soviet 7th Army in Germany.

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Comments:

3. Kuszko is a Soviet officer who is now serving as a Polish general and who at one time was in command of an infantry division in the Wroclaw (Breslau) military district. Comment: Records show that a Major General Eugeniusz Kuszko was a deputy commanding general of the Krakow Military District. He was born in Przemyśl and was deported to the USSR during the war where he joined the 1st Polish Infantry Division).
4. Strazewski is the commander of the Wroclaw Military District.
5. Matwiejewski has been chief of the Polish Armed Forces for the past three years. Comment: Aleksander Matwiejewski is commander of the mechanized troops, and is a Soviet officer.)
6. Kaszinkow is chief of Informacja of the Polish General Staff, and is a Soviet officer.
7. Lysiecki is commander of the senior officers school at Rembertow, near Warsaw, and also is a Soviet officer.

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